

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 PC-01 IO-10 /078 W

----- 114447

P R 302157Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9924

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: CHIEF OF STATE'S SPEECH

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1600

1. CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR GAVE A SPEECH AT 12:30 P.M.
ON APRIL 30 THAT WAS CARRIED ON A NATIONWIDE RADIO AND TELEVISION
NETWORK. THE MAIN POINTS FOLLOW:

A. HONDURAS IS IN A DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION.

THE GOH IS TAKING REMEDIAL ECONOMIC STEPS BUT A DIFFICULT
PERIOD LIES AHEAD;

B. HONDURAS HAS BEEN DISHONORED BY THE RECENT UB SCANDAL.

THE GUILTY WILL BE PUNISHED TO REDEEM NATIONAL HONOR;

C. THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL FULLY SUPPORTS THE GOH
INVESTIGATING COMMISSION. THE HONDURAN PEOPLE WILL
KNOW THE TRUTH. HE IS PROPOSING A NEW LAW AGAINST USING
AN OFFICE OF PUBLIC TRUST FOR SELF-ENRICHMENT;

D. GIVEN THE EXPERIENCE WITH UB, GREAT CARE WILL BE
TAKEN IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MULTINATIO ZL CORPORATIONS.

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HOWEVER, THE GOH IS NOT REJECTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT

SINCE IT IS BADLY NEEDED FOR DEVELOPMENT AS LONG AS

IT IS CONSONANT WITH HONDURAN LAW;

E. THE COOPERATION OF ALL SECTORS WILL BE NEEDED IF
HONDURAS IS TO OVERCOME THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS;

F. THE GOH INTENDS TO ENFORCE THE AGRARIAN REFORM
LAW IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A JUST AGRARIAN ORDER. THE
GOH WILL PROCEED TO FORM A NATIONAL AGRARIAN COUNCIL;

G. THE GOH RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE ADMINIS-
TRATION OF JUSTICE AND WILL INITIATE THE NECESSARY
REFORMS;

H. HONDURAS INTENDS TO HAVE DIPLOMATIC OR COMMERCIAL
RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND WILL HONOR ALL ITS
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS;

I. THE GOH WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN
INTERATION;

J. THE GOH WILL MAINTAIN THE LOPEZ GOVERNMENT'S
POSITION ON THE NEED FOR A GLOBAL AND SIMULTANEOUS
SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE WITH EL SALVADOR; AND

K. THE MILITARY HAS NO DESIRE TO REMAIN IN POWER
PERMANETLY AND WILL, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, RETURN
THE COUNTRY TO A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

2. COMMENT: THE SPEECH WAS BASICALLY A REPEAT OF THE
APRIL 22 DECLARATION OF THE ARMED FORCES THAT REMOVED
LOPEZ AS CHIEF OF STATE (SEE REFTEL). THE THEMES OF
SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRESS, SUPPORT FOR THE REFORMS
CARRIED OUT BY THE LOPEZ GOVERNMENT, UNITY, MODERATION,
DESIRE FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT THAT IS CONSONANT WITH
HONDURAN LAW, RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT WHEN
COUNTRY IS READY AND A SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE WITH EL
SAVADOR WERE ALL CONTAINED IN THAT DECLARATION. THE
SPEECH WAS PRIMARILY A PLATFORM FOR MELGAR TO PRESENT
HIMSELF FOR THE FIRST TIME TO THE COUNTRY AS THE NEW
CHIEF OF STATE. FROM UNSTYLISTIC VIEWPOINT, APART
FROM STUMBLING OVER A FEW WORDS, HE DELIVERED THE
SPEECH FAIRLY WELL.
SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

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